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APRIL 2010

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The Future's So Green He's Got to Wear Shades

Two months ago, *CSN* told you ***Kevin Smith's Green Hornet***, a contemporary series focusing on a second-generation Hornet. Last month, we spotlighted *Matt Wagner's* ***Green Hornet: Year One***, a look at the Golden Age Green Hornet's formative adventures.

And now, it's time to look ahead in time, where ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** introduces yet another Green Hornet ready to fight crime in a near-future world not that very different from our own.

Writer *Brett Matthews*, who's already made his mark in Reid family history with his ***Lone Ranger*** series for dynamite, explained just when ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** takes place, and how that world differs from our own. "The actual time period is ambiguous," Matthews said. "It's definitely set in the future, but not very far. Within our lifetimes, likely. There are no flying cars—which are always *awesome*—or anything like that, which is how I tend to measure these things.

"The world of the ***GHS!*** is very similar to ours. It *is* ours. It's just that the things the country is dealing with now—the recession, the political turmoil, maybe certain environmental issues—didn't resolve as neatly as we're hoping they will. So in the world of the book, we're still dealing with that fallout. The echoes of issues facing us today."

What led to the decision to set ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** in the near future? "Because the book really needed to have its own reason for existing, and Kevin and Matt are the perfect fits for the other timelines," Matthews said. "I wouldn't have it any other way, and I get the feeling that if you gave the three of us first choice at all of them we'd end up exactly where we have.

"I wanted the chance to create something reverent but also original. The near-future setting allowed for that, as well as the opportunity to extrapolate where we are from today. I guess it might seem a strange choice to some, but to me it made perfect sense.

"We're not so far ahead that things are radically different. In many ways, what's most shocking about the future is how little some things change..."

While the world isn't that far removed from our own, there are some changes, both socio-economic and technological, that will help to shape the series. "Technology is forever marching forward. Print media is dying, the world is becoming a more connected place. It's not like that's going to stop," Matthews said. "***GHS!*** has a little bit of that clash—the collision of the past with the present. But at the same time, it's not sci-fi. The tech doesn't drive the story or make us ask the central questions. ***GHS!*** is true to its roots, a crime story. Those elements are definitely there, though."

The concept behind ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** was developed by Dynamite's *Nick Barrucci & Joe Rybandt* before Mathews came on board. "Nick really had a plan—he'd been trying to land the Green Hornet license for years—and he knew who he wanted involved from a creative standpoint," Matthews said. "It was a heck of a pitch, to be honest. He'd clearly put a lot of thought into why each of us would be the right creator for the three different versions, and it was very easy to say yes, given my love for and ties to the character from working on ***The Lone Ranger***.

"The best thing about Dynamite is that they let their creators do just that. They give us room to create and then support what we're doing, they don't dictate. Nick knew he wanted Matt on a classical Hornet, Kevin on the contemporary, and me on some outside the box version. That was it. What you see now and beyond that is what each of us has come up with from that jumping off point."

While Matthews isn't willing to say exactly who the new Green Hornet is ("telling would be giving it away!"), he does confirm that "he's a new, original character—a Green Hornet that's never been seen before. I can give you that much."

What motivates this Hornet? Is he driven by a pivotal event, or is there some other reason he dons the costume? "That, too, would be telling. He's definitely young, though. He's a bit of a vandal, thinks he's a rebel already, even if he doesn't really know what that means in practice—like a lot of us were in college, I guess. Luke comes with a lot of baggage and thinks he's got it all figured out, but he's nowhere close in reality. He wouldn't call what he wears a costume, either.

"And I just told you his name was Luke, so there's that!"

If this is the *near* future, then is the current Green Hornet still around in some form? "Good question—and one that will be answered, in the series. It's central to it, in fact. I'll say this much. Part of The Green Hornet's rich history is the notion of birthright and legacy. So these things will come up, even if they're not as clear-cut as in the other series or timelines."

Does this Green Hornet have a primary adversary, or is he combating the powerfully corrupt in general? "There is definitely a central villain in the story: Gregor Kaast. But Luke wouldn't be a Green Hornet if he wasn't fighting corruption—often from the inside—so that's there as well."

If there's a Green Hornet, can we assume that sooner or later there will be a Kato? "Yes—sooner or later. Again, it wouldn't be The Green Hornet without a Kato or two... My Kato is not pure Japanese—he's actually pretty thoroughly American, which causes friction, in all different parts of his life. Kato's world view and The Hornet's don't line up very neatly at all."

Nothing lasts forever, but Matthews *is* committed to a lengthy run on ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** "I have a story to tell and I'm telling it—ten or twelve issues, depending on how exactly it breaks out. It's a beginning, middle, and end... the origin story of this new Green Hornet and the world he occupies.

"Beyond that, we'll see how people react and if ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** is something they want to see more of. I'm laying the groundwork for it to be a franchise, but not at the expense of the story.

While Matthews finds the idea of a future version of the Green Hornet intriguing, he's not so enthused with a near-future updating of that other masked Reid, the Lone Ranger. "This strikes me as a *bad* idea—though I think it's been done already, if I'm not mistaken. For me, The Ranger is

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Texas at a very specific point in American history. It's endless blue sky and dirt and a war-torn country in transition that needs a hero. Then again, I'm biased.

"You'd have to go post-apocalyptic to make it work. But you're on your own with this one, even though I love space westerns probably even more than the next guy. Please don't pitch this to Nick. I don't want to get that phone call!..."

Matthews is joined on ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** by artist *Ariel Padilla*, whose crisp, bold style on this series displays Padilla's new artistic approach. "I made some adjustments from my older style in order to adapt to this series," Padilla said. "Originally, I had a very clean line, but it didn't make for a very strong visual with this book, so I tried to make it a little harder by using bolder lines."

The look of the new Green Hornet, with its elements of both earlier incarnations, wasn't entirely Padilla's. "Brett has a lot to do with this Green Hornet's look," Padilla said. "He gave me his ideas and I just made it materialize. I think it's cool and exciting."

In addition to modifying his linework, Padilla is also using a striking visual style, complete with a lot more perspective and angle shots that convey the size and scope of the metropolis in which the new Green Hornet operates. Padilla drew his inspiration for this look from some of his favorite films. "I'm a big fan of *Michael Bay* and *John Woo* movies," Padilla said. "Their works are my inspiration in designing the shots and visuals for this series; they are both big influences on my storytelling approach. I'd like to think of ***The Green Hornet Strikes!*** as a big movie directed by them."

The Green Hornet Strikes! #1, a $3.99 comic by *Brett Matthews & Ariel Padilla* with cover art by *John Cassaday*, is scheduled for May release.

by Cliff Biggers

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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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Two Outta Three Ain't Bad!

The opportunity to write the adventures of one of DC's trinity is the dream of many writers—but *J. Michael Straczynski* has landed not one, but *two* of DC's Big Three! Starting with July's ***Superman #701*** and ***Wonder Woman #601,*** fan-fave JMW will debut as writer of both books.

"For as long as I've been doing conventions (starting in the early Cretaceous period, when it was just me and a handful of pterosaurs on a panel debating whether or not mammals with opposable thumbs were really necessary to the writing of quality comics, a point still hotly debated today), there has always been the same question from folks in the audience: 'Is there any one character who is your dream character to write for?' The answer has always been the same: Superman," *Straczynski* wrote on DC's blog ***The Source.*** "When I first came over to DC, that dream was realized in part by *Dan DiDio's* gracious invitation to write the first of potentially many Superman original graphic novels. Now the dream has come fully true with the opportunity to write for the mainstream title, in a story that returns Superman to his roots in a way that will have the whole country talking about him in ways that we haven't seen in a long time.

"Similarly, the chance to write Wonder Woman — the nearest analogue to Superman in the DCU — is massively exciting. She's a vital, powerful character, and we hope to bring a more contemporary sensibility to her character will retaining everything that makes her unique.

"That DC is willing to jump-start these two runs in the pages of their respective anniversary issues is a great opportunity and a vote of confidence in what we have planned for these characters. I'm looking forward to this with more excitement than words can convey.

"It's gonna be a blast."

In an essay also posted on DC's blog, Straczynski explained the vital role that both Superman and Wonder Woman play in JMS's life and in our culture. "One of my very earliest memories as a child is of watching one of the Superman cartoons created by *Max Fleischer*. In particular, a scene where Superman puts his cape around Lois Lane to protect her from an incoming tide of molten metal. I imprinted on that image like a baby duck, and a lot of what I laughingly call my personality was formed in that moment (which is why a cel-recreation of that image is one of the first things you see upon entering my home, before you get to the row of wall after wall covered with artwork by *Alex Ross, Curt Swan,* and others, as well as just about every bit of Superman memorabilia ever produced).

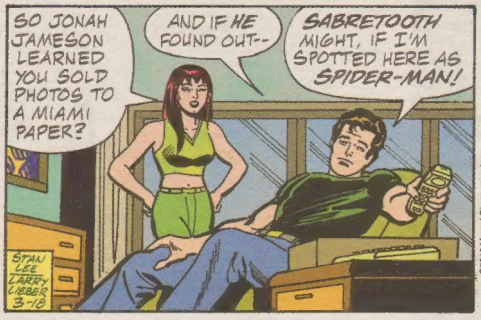
"As a kid growing up in the mean streets of New Jersey, Superman was an icon for me. It was a tough life: we moved about 21 times in my first 17 years, we didn't have much money, and every day was a struggle. When I told grown-ups that I was going to be a writer someday, nobody listened, nobody thought I had a chance, because as far as teachers were concerned, kids like me who came from nowhere and nothing were dead-enders, destined to end up working at the gas station at best or in jail at worst. Writers were supposed to be Ivory Tower guys with leather patches on the elbows of their smoking jackets, who went to the right schools and came from the right families. I lived in the world of No, a place populated by bullies and street fights and tenements, with no possibility of escape.

But Superman… see, Superman could do *anything*. If there was someplace he didn't want to be, he could just fly away. And he couldn't be hurt, which to a kid who got beat up pretty regularly in fights and elsewhere was a pretty attractive idea. Superman taught me the morals and ethics I draw up on to this day: to play fair, not to lie, and to be willing to put yourself between harm and those you care about.

"If Superman could do anything, then maybe I had a chance. Maybe I could become a writer. Maybe I could even learn to fly. That symbol, the S, became a badge

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


SO JONAH JAMESON LEARNED YOU SOLD PHOTOS TO A MIAMI PAPER?
AND IF HE FOUND OUT--
SABRETOOTH MIGHT, IF I'M SPOTTED HERE AS SPIDER-MAN!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-10
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for me, and growing up I always made sure I had it somewhere on me, like a shaman's charm. That may sound silly, and from a grown-up perspective it probably is silly, but as Henry Kissinger once said, it has the added benefit of being true. And it helped me get through the hard times, which is why I continue that practice to this day… right now it's on a key-chain in my pocket.

"For me—and I suspect for a lot of people—that symbol stands for the belief in our own potentiality, in what we think we can do, and try, and aspire to. I was watching the news recently, and they were showing Palestinian protests, followed by a story on the night life scene in LA, and later on, a live report from London about something or other… and in the background of each of those stories there was somebody wearing a Superman t-shirt or cap. It's universal.

"And there's a reason for that, a secret no one knows, but I'll tell you, because of how long I've known you, and our long-standing friendship.

"And the secret is this: The Superman symbol is Kryptonian for No Limits.

"And whether or not you speak Kryptonian (or Kryptonese), you know that… you know that deep inside, where even the cynicism of the world cannot reach.

"I've told this story before in other places, so at risk of being redundant… back a few years ago, I was at the Chicago Comic Con when a guy in his 20s grabbed a bunch of expensive stuff off a table in the dealer's room and made a run for it. The owner ran after him down the aisle, yelling 'stop him!' As he came in my direction, everybody parted like the Red Sea.

"I brought him down like a gazelle, and we held him until the police showed up.

"Afterward, one of the con organizers said to me, Why'd you do that? He's a big guy, you could've gotten hurt.'

"And I pointed to where I'd been standing when it happened: right in front of a ten-foot-tall cutout of Superman. 'How could I stand in front of that, in front of him,' I said, 'and do nothing?

As Superman has been for me, so Wonder Woman has been for a lot of women readers, so the chance to dive into that character is something I'm eagerly anticipating. This is a strong, mythic, powerful character who for some time now has been kind of drowning under the weight of her own mythos, so I'm looking forward to paring away some of the layers of debris and undergrowth that have piled up around her in order to get to the core of the character. Coming from the world of TV and film, the first rule you learn is to service the main character more than anything else, so I'll be writing with an eye firmly fixed on that rule.

"As part of that process, we're going to be looking more closely at how Wonder Woman appears, and functions, and her role in the DCU… and what we have planned will, we hope, come across as dynamic and powerful as she deserves to be.

"Similarly, we plan to bring Superman back to his roots, to really explore who he is… how he sees us, and how we see him, in a much more personal way than we've seen in a while. This is part of a larger effort that will have national ramifications, but I can't say much more about it than that for now. Keep an eye on this website for more information when the time is right… but for now, let's just say that Superman may be a lot closer in proximity to you, the reader, than you ever guessed.

"To kick off both efforts by appearing in the anniversary issues of these two characters is a great opportunity, and a good jumping-on point for readers.

"If there's any other message in this to readers, it's in these two characters as icons of hope—that it doesn't make any difference where you come from, or where you went to school, or who you are, there's hope. That a kid from Jersey with Superman as the icon that kept him alive for years would one day end up writing the character is as absolutely unlikely as it is utterly inevitable. And if that's true for me, it's true for you, if you follow your dreams and your passions in full flight.

"Don't give up.

"No Limits.

"It's never too late to learn to fly"

Simone Says

The arrival of *J. Michael Straczynski* as writer of ***Wonder Woman*** means that the book's current writer, *Gail Simone*, will be departing. But her departure from the pages of ***Wonder Woman*** doesn't mean that she's saying goodbye to DC; quite the contrary, her schedule is more full than ever before!

"Working on ***Wonder Woman*** has been one of the most thrilling things in my career," Simone said. "There aren't many jobs in comics as cool as writing dialogue for Hippolyta as she's riding a flying horse and stabbing giant sea monsters. I had a blast and as always when I leave a book, I'm going to miss the cast terribly.

"When you write this book, you meet these remarkable, amazing Wonder Woman fans and it's quite unlike anything I've ever experienced, just this wave of love and kindness. Diana means something to these people in a way that few other superhero characters really ever seem to do, and I can't thank the readers enough for their undying affection for the character. I've met people whose stories about what Wonder Woman meant to them are going to stay with me forever. It's a pretty rare gift...

"I'm sad to leave but very, very proud of the work we did together and delighted to have been a small part of Diana's ongoing epic saga. It's really been a joy."

While Simone might be off ***Wonder Woman,*** she'll still be highly visible at DC. "My schedule is packed full, as well… and I'm doing books that make me happy every day, like the incredibly fun and horrid ***Secret Six***, which has some really shocking surprises coming, and then of course a book very dear to my heart, the return of ***Birds of Prey*** in May, with artist *Ed Benes* doing the finest work of his career. And I can announce for the first time officially, a really exciting ***Welcome to Tranquility*** mini-series starts in July!"

CSNsider

•Comics and fantasy art legend *Frank Frazetta* has entered into a new publishing relationship with Vanguard Productions announce a new publishing relationship. "We've known Vanguard publisher *J. David Spurlock* for many years," Frazetta said. "Vanguard publishes the very best! David helped on our ***Painting with Fire*** documentary and we helped him on Vanguard's *Roy G. Krenkel*, *Wally Wood*, and *J. Allen St.John* books. It's a natural that we should work together. I'm looking forward to seeing the quality job they do on the new Frazetta books."

"We are very excited about launching a line of Frazetta books under the new Vanguard Frazetta Classics brand," Spurlock said. "The line will include a

Continued on page 6

PETER, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE IN FLORIDA WITH ME-- INSTEAD OF BATTLING THAT SABRE-TOOTH BACK IN NEW YORK.
SO AM I, HONEY!
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I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T LEARN WHERE WOLVERINE'S GONE.
YEAH, THAT'S ONE FAMILY REUNION THAT COULD BE FATAL!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-19

I'M SURE GLAD WE'RE IN MIAMI!
IT KEEPS SPIDER-MAN FROM HAVING TO DEAL WITH THAT NUT SABRETOOTH!
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WHILE, IN THE BIG APPLE...
I'M TIRED OF SEARCHING FOR THAT WEB-HEADED WHINER.
I'M GONNA FORCE HIM TO COME TO ME!
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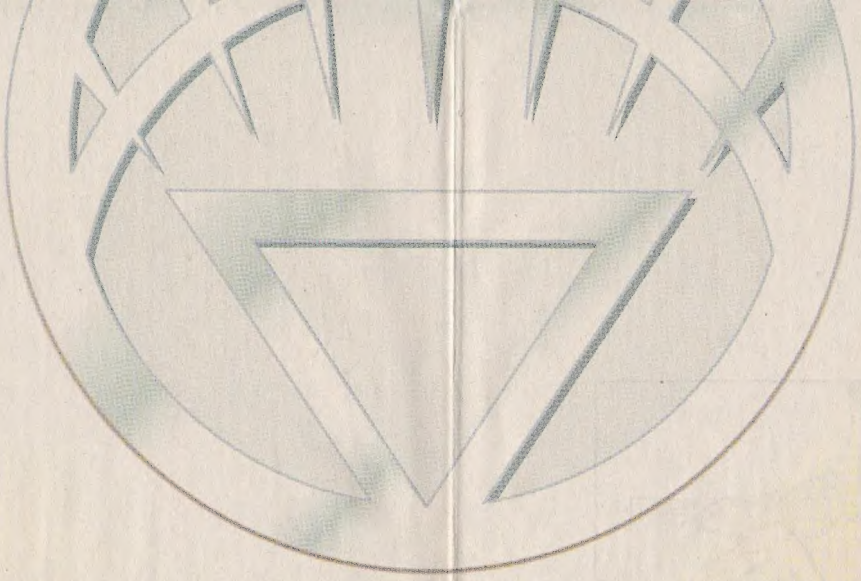
AFTER THE BLACKEST NIGHT™



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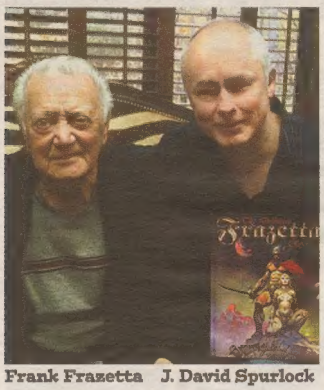
series of volumes collecting Frazetta's comics work in top quality book format. Other Vanguard Frazetta Classics will include a new edition of the 1998 hit, ***Frazetta - The Definitive Reference***, a richly illustrated index of every Frazetta work ever published; a ***Frank Frazetta Sketchbook***; and more—all in library-quality collections fully authorized by *Frank Frazetta*."

According to Spurlock, the ***Definitive Reference*** will be "the greatest, lushly illustrated Frazetta index ever with essays by various contributors and packed with both classic and, the rarest Frazetta items/images ever."



Frank Frazetta J. David Spurlock

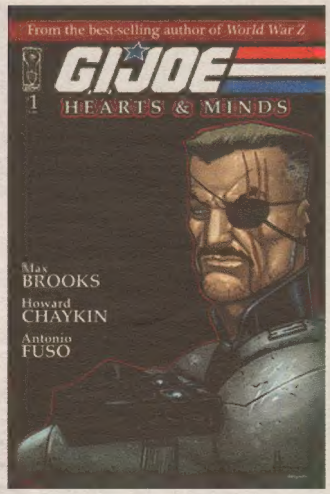
Any chance that Vanguard might offer a comprehensive art volume focusing on Frazetta's entire career and body of work? "It is quite possible," Spurlock said. "We already have seven different books planned, including the ***Frazetta: The Definitive Reference***, at least four volumes of ***Frazetta Comics Classics, The Frank Frazetta Sketchbook*** and a surprise we arent ready to reveal yet. But, the Frazettas are already discussing additional possibilities as well so, anything is possible."

•We've told you about ***Avengers, Secret Avengers***, and (elsewhere in this issue) ***New Avengers***—but there's a fourth Avengers title debuting in June: ***Avengers Academy***, written by *Christos Gage*. More news on that next week!

•And that's not the only teen superteam joining Marvel's lineup in June. ***Young Allies*** returns, courtesy of *Sean McKeever & David Baldeon*, starring a teen superteam comprised o Rikki Barnes, Arana, Gravity, Firestar, and a new Toro. The teens will face off against the Bastards of Evil, a team whose members are the unwanted sons and daughters of supervillains.

•*Max Brooks*, the critically-acclaimed and bestselling author of ***World War Z, the Zombie Survival Guide***, and ***The Zombie Survival Guide: Recorded Attacks***, ventures into the land of the living as he writes a five-part ***GI Joe*** miniseries. ***GI Joe: Hearts and Minds*** explores the effects of real-world war on the individual. Each issue will feature two chapters, each spotlighting a different Joe or Cobra characters, starting with Major Bludd and Spirit. "I tried to write a series as harsh and complicated as the times we're living in," said Brooks.

"This is the ***GI Joe*** book that isn't about action figures. It's about people like you and me," said editor *Andy Schmidt*. "And that makes it even more chilling than any zombie novel could be, because this one isn't about a plague--this one is about us."



Brooks will be joined by such artists as *Howard Chaykin* and *Antonio Fuso*, who will also supply covers for the series.

•***Punisher #17*** undergoes a name change—the book will not be titled ***FrankenCastle #17*** when it appears in late May.

Three's a Prime Number

How do the three core Avengers—Iron Man, Thor, and one-time Captain America Steve Rogers—overcome the barriers that have risen between them since the pre-***Civil War*** days? That's a question that *Brian Bendis & Alan Davis* intend to answer in ***Avengers Prime; Siege Aftermath***, a five-issue bi-monthly series launching in June. In spite of the fact that the Avengers titles at the center of Marvel's new "Heroic Age" will have the better part of a year's history on them by the time this five-parter wraps up, all five issues take place between the final issue of ***Siege*** and the first issue of ***The Avengers***.

The story begins at the end of ***Siege*** as Iron Man, Thor and Steve Rogers find themselves in a different place in time, stuck there until they work together to get home. As they experience this displacement over the series' five issues, the three end up dealing with their rocky past in a way that avoids lots of talking heads, instead forcing them into an action-filled dangerous adventure while they also work through their differences.

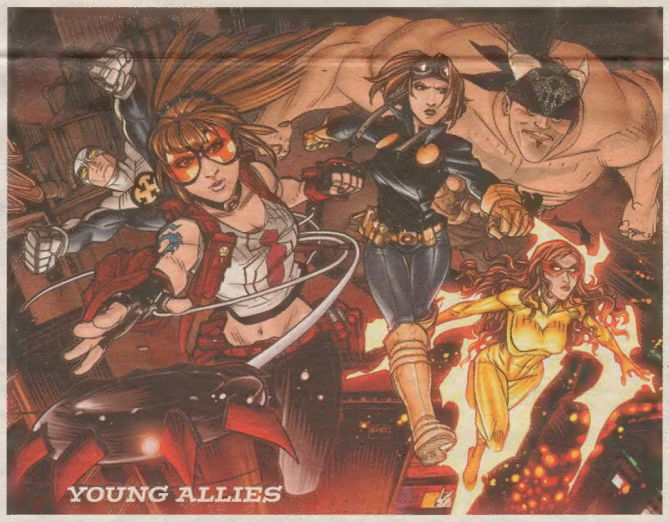
Brevoort describes the series as "a ***Siege*** aftermath, or ***Siege*** epilogue, but it's less about the specific events of ***Siege***, and more about the relationship going forward of Thor, Iron Man and Steve Rogers... They have a lot to deal with. In the same sort of way that, at the end of ***Civil War***, Brian wrote the ***[Civil War: The] Confession*** one-shot, this fills that same role, except that there is more, and we want to actually have some colorful superhero action-adventure during the course of it. It'll be five issues rather than one where they all sit around and share their feelings.

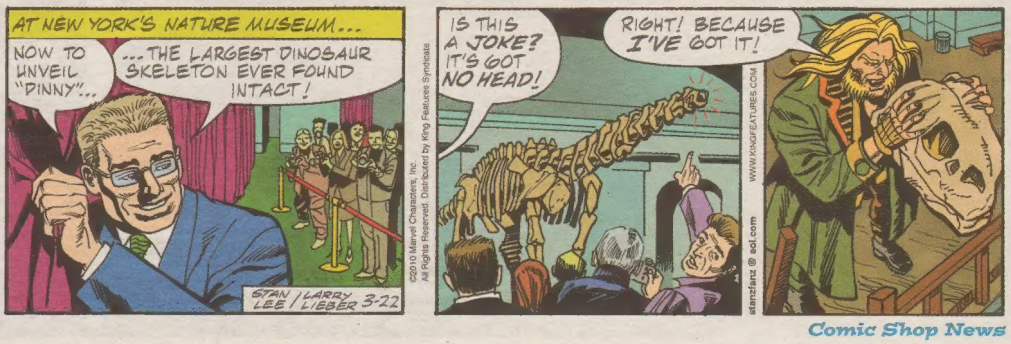
"Due to stuff that I can't get into just yet, Thor, Iron Man and Steve Rogers find themselves pulled into this adventure, pulled into a place in time that is not their own, and having to once again come together and once again join forces to get to the bottom of it, and to find their way back and deal with the situation they're in. As part of that, they'll work through some of their outstanding issues and get to some kind of resolve on all the stuff that has come before."

AVENGERS PRIME; SIEGE AFTERMATH

What led to the decision to focus on this reconciliation in a separate miniseries rather than summing it up in a page or two at the end of ***Siege***? "I think it was always the plan to do this is some way, shape or form. That's all endemic of the type of writer Brian is and the things that interest him the most," Brevoort said. "I think you can sort of see, based on his body of work, that this is the sort of thing he likes to sink his teeth into the most. So I don't think there was ever any doubt that he was going to deal with it and delve into it in a meaningful way, and not just kind of brush it off and go, 'Hey! Everybody's friends now!' and go away and forget all those comics and stories we did in the past.

"Again, going back to the ***Civil War: The***

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NOW TO UNVEIL "DINNY"...
...THE LARGEST DINOSAUR SKELETON EVER FOUND INTACT!
STAN LEE / LARRY LIEBER 3-22
IS THIS A JOKE? IT'S GOT NO HEAD!
RIGHT! BECAUSE I'VE GOT IT!
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Confession. It wasn't part of the original plan, but it became apparent, specifically to Brian, that there were these outstanding emotional issues that had to be addressed, that weren't really being addressed in the climax of ***Civil War*** or the set-up of the Initiative stuff that was coming after. At that point, Brian realized the characters needed to put some punctuation on this emotional story they've been through on top of running around and punching and hitting one another.

"***Siege*** and the aftermath of ***Siege***, and going into this new Avengers era, is all coming from Brian. And this was part of the jigsaw puzzle that he had always intended to deal with. Some of the initial thoughts were, well, where will it be dealt with? Will it be dealt with in ***Avengers***? Will it be dealt within ***Siege***? And as it turned out, we felt the best place to do it was in its own book, where it could be the sum and substance of what the story is about, rather than sort of weighing down an Avengers launch that starts with a new #1. Starting that with a ton of baggage, dealing with stories that are a year or two years or three years or more old, just didn't make sense. Or weighting down the end of Siege with 80 pages of guys standing around emoting to one another."

Why the ***Avengers Prime*** name? "It's the three prime members" of the Avengers, Brevoort said. "***Avengers Prime*** is Thor, Cap/Steve, and Iron Man. When people think of the core, classic Avengers, these are thought of as the holy trinity or holy trio. So, 'Prime' is really just our idea of saying 'those three guys.'

How did all-star artist *Alan Davis* become a part of the project? " The real reason is that Brian is a huge *Alan Davis* fan and has been for years. Brian has always been interested in working with Alan on something, but we could never get the timing to work out. Alan's always had other stuff he was writing and drawing himself or other projects going on. The plan never synched up in a way that would work. But now, it has. So it's not very much different than that on the one hand.

'On the other hand, the good part about Alan is he can draw anything, and makes everything look quintessentially Marvel. We haven't sent it out yet, but you see his first cover, and it's really just Thor, Iron Man and Steve just standing there, but they look quintessentially like themselves. They look cool and immediately click to the fact that this is that foundation kind of Marvel project.

"Also, for all that, Alan is great at action and movement and so forth, his characters act; his characters emote in a very sympathetic type of way. And for a story like this, that's going to have a strong emotional underpinning, you need somebody who can breathe life into these characters and make them seem like human being, albeit human beings with powers and strange backgrounds and what-not. And can get across some of what's going on behind the eyes in certain sequences, in a way that lesser artists can't quite convey. They may be able to draw a perfect shot of someone throwing a punch, but they can't necessarily depict a guy saying one thing but thinking another."

Brevoort acknowledges that, because of the book's bimonthly schedule, the second part of the title is there (at least initially) to remind readers where it fits into things, and that it doesn't tie in to the events of other books coming out the same month as each issue of the five-parter. "We're talking about five issues, and that's about ten months," Brevoort said. "Honestly, the reason that we're calling it ***Siege Aftermath*** – and honestly, the ***Siege Aftermath*** part of that title might fall off eventually, after an issue or two – is really to signal to people where it fits within the larger cosmology of what we're putting out right now.

"At the same time we're doing this, we're launching four other Avengers titles. ***The Avengers #1, Secret Avengers, New Avengers***, and Avengers Academy... And having yet another book that's just, 'Hey – here's another Avengers thing!' We didn't want to do that because it will get lost in the shuffle. People aren't going to understand what this is as opposed to all that.

"So very specifically labeling it, at least out of the gate, as ***Siege Aftermath*** lets people know, 'Oh, OK, I get this. It comes after ***Siege*** and before ***Avengers #1***.' Hopefully, they get on board the story, and away we go, and by #3, it won't matter so much that we tell them this comes right after ***Siege***...

While Brevoort won't say exactly where the three heroes find themselves transported to, he did say that "it's definitely a place Marvel fans have seen before, although not necessarily this way. And there will be other characters from Marvel's pantheon that will show up and hopefully delight and enthrall readers along the way."

Avengers Prime—Siege Aftermath #1 is scheduled for June release.

All The New That's Fit to Print

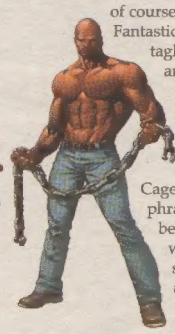
First ***The Avengers***, then ***Secret Avengers***—and now Marvel has revealed the high-profile lineup of *Brian Bendis & Stuart Immonen's* ***New Avengers***, which debuts in June.

First up is Luke Cage, whose teaser image was accompanied by the quote, "I've never backed down from a fight." Cage was also announced as the leader of May's new Thunderbolts team, so apparently he'll appear in more than one book... and he's far from the only New Avenger who'll be doing double duty!

Next is Spider-Man, whose image was accompanied by the quote "I take responsibility for my actions." Spidey was also depicted on the cover of ***Avengers #1***... does that mean he's a member of both teams?

And if he *is* a member of both teams, he's not alone, since Wolverine has been depicted as a member of the New Avengers, accompanied by the quote "I do what's gotta be done." Wolverine also appeared on the cover of ***Avengers #1***.

The final double-duty member of the team is Ben Grimm, aka the Thing (who is, of course, a member of the Fantastic Four). His teaser tagline is "I put friends and family first."



Also featured as a member of the team is Jewel, aka Jessica Jones—who is also Luke Cage's wife. Her catchphrase is "strives to better herself," which we can assume she'll be doing alongside her husband.

Back to Press

- ***Choker #1 2nd Printing***, featuring a new cover by *Ben Templesmith*, which should be in comic shops even as you read this.
- ***Incredible Hulk #607 2nd Printing*** (JAN108113), in stores 3/31.
- ***Thunderbolts #141 2nd Printing*** (JAN108112), in stores 3/31.

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HOW DID YOU GET THAT DINOSAUR HEAD?
FORGET THAT! HOW SOON CAN YOU GET FIVE MILLION BUCKS TO GET IT BACK?
BY THE WAY, I'VE GOT KIND OF AN ANCIENT PEDIGREE MYSELF...
THE NAME'S SABRETOOTH!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-23
PUT THAT THING DOWN, OR I'LL--
DON'T! YOU'LL DESTROY THE DINOSAUR SKULL!
NO PROBLEM, MAN. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT--
--TILL THE CITY RANSOMS IT!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-24
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